



## 2004 Youth Vote Results

The 2004 elections saw an unprecedented level of youth turnout. U.S. Census data analysis by The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) found that:

- ✓ Among 18-24 year olds, turnout was up 11 points to 47 percent.
- ✓ Among 18-29 year olds, turnout was up 9 points to 49 percent.
- ✓ More than 20 million votes were cast by 18-29 year olds, and 11.6 million were cast by 18-24 year olds, both up sharply from 2000.

In 2004, 4.3 million more 18-29 year olds cast ballots than in 2000, including three million more under the age of 25, the largest increase in 18 to 24 year old voters since 1971 when the voting age was lowered to 18. The increase in turnout among the youngest voters (ages 18-24) was higher than any other age group, making it a significant and disproportionate factor in the overall increase in turnout. **Turnout for 18-24 year olds increased 11 points from 36 to 47 percent, while the overall voter rate increased only 4 points.**

Table: Voter Turnout among Citizens According to the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, Nov 2000 and 2004

Age	2000	2004	Percentage Point Increase
18-24	36%	47%	+11% Points
25-34	51%	56%	+5 % points
35-44	60%	64%	+4 % points
45-54	66%	69%	+3 % points
55-64	70%	73%	+3 % points
65-74	72%	73%	+1 % points
75+	67%	69%	+2 % points
All Ages	60%	64%	+4 % points

### Additional facts on the youth vote (ages 18-24) in the 2004 elections<sup>1</sup>:

- According to exit polls and U.S. Census data, the increase in youth turnout was driven by a surge in **African-Americans and Latinos**, who accounted for more than half of the 4.3 million additional under-30 voters who went to the polls in 2004 compared to 2000.
- The turnout in **battleground states** was 17% points higher, indicating that *targeted* young voters come out in higher numbers.
- Overall youth vote went for Senator Kerry over President Bush, by 54-45%. White 18-29 year olds favored President Bush by 55-44%.
- 62% of college students said that they had encouraged or helped someone else to vote.
- On average, states with **same-day-registration** had youth turnout rates about 14% points higher.

<sup>1</sup> CIRCLE, [www.civicyouth.org](http://www.civicyouth.org).

# ROCK THE VOTE

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### Example #1: Boulder County, CO:

The 18-24 year old voters in Boulder County were targeted by various partisan and non-partisan youth campaigns, national student mobilization groups, as well as the US Senate candidates. As a result, the county clerk in Boulder County reported, 18-24 year old registration increased by 31,335 voters and **turnout increased by 460% over 2000**. As a comparison, registration for 25-36 year olds dropped by about 1000 voters and turnout increased by 36% over 2000.

### Example #2: Four Counties in Iowa

In the state of Iowa, young voters were targeted by partisan and non-partisan youth campaigns. Also, the Republican US Senate candidate ran youth-targeted television ads. *The Cedar Falls Gazette* reported that, in four counties that they analyzed, registration of voters under 25 increased by thirty-six percent (36%) over 2000 and the number of votes cast by young people increased from 31,852 in 2000 to 56,196. The following compares young voter turnout percentages among registered voters from 2000 to 2004 in the above mentioned counties. The increase in the turnout rate is even more remarkable given the number of new voters added to the rolls.

- Dubuque County: 39% turnout (2000) vs. 57% turnout (2004)
- Linn County: 44% turnout (2000) vs. 64% turnout (2004)
- Polk County: 48% turnout (2000) vs. 63% turnout (2004)
- Johnson County: 62% turnout (2000) vs. 70% turnout (2004)

